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ANNALS

- OF -

Augusta County, Virginia,

From 1726 to 1871.

- BY -

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Member of the Virginia Historical Society.

Second Edition.

1902.



[COUNTY SEAL.]

C. J. Carrier Company
Harrisonburg, Virginia

A hill about a mile south of the village of Greenville, on the main road from Staunton to Lexington, is called "Staley's Hill," from a tragedy which occurred there at sometime near the year 1800. Several children going to school one morning, saw a traveler on horseback moving northward, who was overtaken by a man walking and carrying a gun. The two proceeded together for a while, and then the footman fell behind and deliberately shot and killed the other. Taking the traveler's saddlebags and mounting his horse, the murderer fled, and was never heard of afterwards. The victim proved to be a merchant from East Tennessee, named Staley, who was going to Baltimore to purchase goods.

JACOB WARWICK.

The *Southern Historical Magazine* for August, 1892, contains an article by the Rev. William T. Price, entitled "Pioneer History," from which we have obtained most of the following facts in regard to Jacob Warwick and his family.

The father of Jacob Warwick came to Augusta county from Williamsburg probably about the year 1740. He was a Lieutenant in the service of the British Government, and was employed in surveying and locating land grants in Augusta. His Christian name is not given, but we find a deed on record, from James Gay to John Warwick, dated March 21, 1759, and presume that the grantee was the same as Lieutenant Warwick, so called. According to the article referred to, he married Elizabeth Dunlap, who lived near the present village of Middlebrook; but another account says his wife was a Miss Gay. He obtained for himself a tract of land called Dunmore, in the present county of Pocahontas, then a part of Augusta. After the birth of four children,—Charles, Elizabeth, Jacob and John—and settling his family on the Dunmore estate [at the great risk of being murdered by Indians.] Lieut. Warwick concluded to visit England. He was never heard of after his departure, and being given up for dead, his widow subsequently married Robert Sitlington. In the mean while she had managed to have the Dunmore estate settled upon her son, Jacob. It is said that Joseph Bell became the guardian of Jacob and John Warwick, but of this there is no record proof. Nor, as far as the archives of Augusta show, was there any administration on the estate of Lieut. Warwick.

Jacob Warwick married a Miss Vance, daughter of Col. John Vance of North Carolina. For a number of years he lived at Dunmore, and there all his children were born. Afterwards he removed to land he had acquired in what is now Bath county. He was a man of great enterprise and considerable wealth in land and cattle. But he seems to have been unambitious, and during his life held no conspicuous

public office. Like all frontiersmen, he was of necessity an Indian fighter. He was never sure, however, that he had ever killed more than one savage. This was in a hand-to-hand fight, and the tree at which it occurred was remembered by people living in 1891. It was always a grief to him that he had caused the death of one human being.

It is related that on one occasion a scout from Millborough warned Warwick that a large party of Indians were returning from the east, and that he and about twenty men waited in ambush for them, on the mountain south of Clover Lick. The white men fired, and with such precision that every shot killed or wounded an Indian, causing the survivors hastily to retire. Mrs. Warwick with servants followed her husband and friends, carrying provisions to them. The date of this occurrence is not given.

On another occasion Warwick went to the region of Randolph county, with a party of land agents and surveyors, and as they apprehended no danger, on account of the inclemency of the season, they went unarmed, [very improbable.] They, however, encountered a band of Shawnees, who fired upon and killed three of them. Warwick's horse was wounded and fell, but recovered himself and bore his master and another man safely home, thirty miles off, in one day.

Elsewhere we have stated that Jacob Warwick redeemed and brought back the boy John Gilmore, who was carried off by the Indians from Kerr's Creek in 1764. Mr. Price says the rescue occurred soon after the battle of Point Pleasant, in 1774, when Warwick was on a trading expedition among the Indians, and that the boy was stolen from the Indians at Fort Pitt, without their consent. He is undoubtedly mistaken as to the date and place. The Indians were compelled by Col. Bouquet, in the latter part of 1764, to deliver up their white captives, and it is hardly possible that they detained the boy named for ten years longer, and then brought him to Fort Pitt, still holding him a prisoner.

It is supposed that Warwick was a member of Capt. George Mathews' company at the battle of Point Pleasant, and unless tradition is entirely unreliable, he contributed materially to the success of the whites in that memorable conflict. When the battle began he, with others, was remote from the camp securing a supply of meat. Hearing the firing, he and his party hastened to rejoin the army, arriving at a critical moment, and the Indians mistaking them for a reinforcement under Col. Christian, who was known to be approaching, abandoned the conflict.

Jacob Warwick was actively engaged during the Revolutionary war, but we do not know the extent of his services. All that is certainly known is, that he was Lieutenant of Capt. William Kincaid's company which served in lower Virginia, in the early part of 1781. When Bath county was organized in 1791, he was one of the Justices of the Peace.

His death occurred in January, 1826, in the 83rd year of his age. He was buried on the west branch of Jackson's river, six miles from

the Warm Springs, and his descendant, Mr. Price, says pathetically: "Were it the grave of Campbell's 'Last Man,' it could not be in a much less frequented place."

Mrs. Warwick died in 1823, when she was 80 years of age. She is described as eminent for piety and many excellencies.

The children of Jacob Warwick and wife were one son, (Andrew), and six daughters. One of the daughters was the wife of Charles Cameron.

CHARLES CAMERON.

From an account of the Cameron family, by Mrs. Maria Boys Cochran Sterrett, a great-grand-daughter of Col. Charles Cameron, we have obtained most of the information embraced in the following sketch.

The first of the family who came to America, from Scotland, was Dr. John Cameron, who is said to have been a nephew of Cameron of Lochiel, chief of the clan. Dr. Cameron was one of the men who, following Lochiel, took up arms in behalf of Charles Edward, the young Pretender, in 1745. After the disastrous battle of Culloden, in 1746, he made his escape to Spain, coming from that country to the West Indies, and from thence to New York. In New York, he met and married a widow, Mrs. Margaret Murray, a native of Ireland, of Scotch descent, who had two daughters, Sarah and Mary Murray.

From New York Dr. Cameron came to Norfolk, Virginia, and there his two children were born. The older of the two, called Charles Edward, was born February 22, 1753, and the younger, George Hugh, several years afterwards.

When Charles Cameron was six years of age his father with his family removed to Staunton. After that, but exactly when is not known, it being safe for him to return to Scotland, Dr. Cameron embarked for that country, hoping to recover his property, but was lost at sea.

Charles Cameron found employment in a store in Staunton, and a few years later went to the Monay Creek Iron Works to act as clerk for Henry Miller. When only nineteen years of age he married Mr. Miller's daughter, Nancy, who died about six months after her marriage.

Col. Charles Lewis' wife was Sarah Murray, the half sister of Charles Cameron, and the latter and his brother George were members of Col. Lewis' regiment in the expedition to Point Pleasant in 1774. Charles and others were sent out to hunt for game, and when he returned he found the battle over and both his brother and brother-in-law slain.

On the 3rd of December, 1776, the Court Martial of Augusta county met at the court-house, and proceeded to choose by ballot officers "to raise two companies of regulars according to act of assem-

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bly." John Syme was chosen Captain of the first company, and Charles Cameron First Lieutenant. At a meeting of the Court held February 1, 1777, it was reported that Capt. Syme had recruited 28 men and Lient. Cameron 20. The company was a part of the 10th Virginia regiment, commanded by Col. Stevens, and participated in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. On the 3rd of January, 1778, Lient. Cameron resigned his commission in the regular army, and retired to private life. What his occupation was, we are not informed; probably he was a farmer and grazier. Early in 1781, he was in the military service again as Captain of Augusta militia under Col. Sampson Mathews, in lower Virginia, for a tour of three months. In the summer of 1781, he was in the field again as Captain, and was present at the battle of Jamestown, or Green Spring, in June, serving at this time for two months. His last military service was as commissary of the district composed of Augusta, Rockbridge and Rockingham counties, for furnishing supplies to the stations in Western Virginia and aiding in recruiting for the regular army. After the war he became Colonel of militia.

In 1790, Col. Cameron was a Justice of the Peace for Augusta county. At this time he probably lived in the part of Augusta which is now Bath county; and when the latter county was organized, early in 1791, he was one of the first Justices commissioned by the Governor. He was, however, appointed Clerk of the County Court, and his office of Justice was vacated. His nephew, Charles L. Francisco, whose mother was Mary Murray, succeeded him as clerk, and held the office many years.

In 1793, Col. Cameron married his second wife, Rachel, daughter of Jacob Warwick, who, like her mother, was distinguished for her piety. She was the mother of three children, two of whom died in infancy. The third, Andrew Warwick Cameron, was born June 6, 1806.

Col. Cameron died July 14, 1829. His widow survived till 1858, when she was 86 years of age.

Col. Andrew W. Cameron, only son of Charles Cameron, removed from Bath county to the vicinity of Lexington, in 1840. During the late war between the States, he had four sons in the Confederate army, and on the 18th of July, 1861, rode to Lexington to enquire the news. The stage coach from Staunton arrived at the Lexington hotel, and was surrounded by a crowd of people anxious to hear from the army, Col. Cameron being among them. One of the passengers carried a loaded minnie rifle, which was accidentally discharged, and the ball striking Col. Cameron he was instantly killed. Young William McClung was mortally wounded by the same ball, and a third person was somewhat hurt.

The Rev. WILLIAM GRAHAM, resigned the office of Rector of Liberty Hall, September 25, 1796, and immediately set out on a journey to the western part of the State, in pursuance of a plan he had